

SUMMER
2022



cornerstone prep

Team Cornerstone Quarterly

Ephesians 2: 19-22



ALL THINGS, IN LOVE

Standing 'For' and Fighting 'With' at Cornerstone
by Principal Brandon McCall

The Midianites and Amalekites "numerous as locusts, camels without number, numerous as the sand on the seashore" pillaged the countryside. But Gideon's band of 300 faithful troops quietly made ready for battle.

Before their nighttime engagement, the Hebrew soldiers were given some final instructions:

"Watch me,' he told them. 'Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"

— Judges 7: 17-18

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The Lord's victory through Gideon and the 300 was momentous. The fallen numbered 120,000 men...

There's a lesson here for those serious about raising world changers for Christ: we must show young men and women that there are things worth believing in and fighting for, even if the odds look insurmountable.

We must show them that God's Word is more than stories and quotes to make us moral or feel better when we are sad. It's actually something living, active, and worth courageously building a life on and standing for!

We live in a culture that wants to attack their enemies, fueled by seething hatred. There is enough anger, gossip, backbiting, and negative speech to make one weep. But who will stand for something? For Truth? For the Lord, the family, the Church, the Gospel...not merely against the world? Who will be courageous enough to love like Jesus in a world ruled by hate?

Loving like Jesus is hard. It's hate that is easy. But love should fuel everything we do, say, and teach.

God's commission for parents to Biblically train up their children this way requires a team. We can't do it alone!

One of my favorite scriptures comes from the aftermath of the above battle. Israel devastated the enemy and the enemy leaders fled while Gideon's men took chase.

"Then Gideon and the 300 men who were with him came to the Jordan and crossed over, weary yet pursuing." – Judges 8:4

When it got hard and they grew tired, they kept going. Why? Not because they hated these men or because they had a lust to tear down idolatry.

"For the Lord..."

What united them and ordered their steps was love for God, not hatred for their enemies. Because only God's love can energize the feet of the weary. Hatred is heavy. It hardens the weary heart and, even when righteous, when held too long can become a burden.

What we stand for and who we stand with is always more powerful than what and who we stand against. Gideon's 300 were with him, not against their enemies.

At Cornerstone, our vision is to build a place where people who stand FOR Biblical truth can have a community of people to run WITH.

God's love will always result in engaging the enemy - it must. It will also lead to tearing down idols - it must. But that's not the aim. This is something that I fear our culture is losing vision of – standing FOR something, doing all things guided by truth, overflowing in love.

This is how God's warriors overcame "seemingly" insurmountable odds. Because, when they submitted to God, the Lord was the one doing the battling, even...especially... when they were weary.

Spoiler alert: This year, we will grow weary and make mistakes at some point. When we do, may we all be like Gideon who pursued and Jesus who submitted, and not like Esau who surrendered (the same word described Esau and Gideon and I encourage you to look into it and discuss with family/friends).

Keep pursuing, Cornerstone! WITH our kids, WITH our community, PURSUING the Lord and LOVING in ALL things for HIS glory.

"For I give plenty of water to the weary ones, and refresh everyone who languishes."

– Jeremiah 31:25



[Pictured: Executive Director Mrs. Cindi McCall and her daughter Jessica travelled to D.C. with a few students to the 2022 March for Life]

"Let all that you do be done in love."

I Corinthians 16: 14

MEET SOME OF OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS!

CORNERSTONE'S MISSION

is "Equipping students through Biblical discipleship and authentic education for life and work in the real world." God has commissioned parents to this great task and it takes a team of people from family, school, and church working together to accomplish this Christ-oriented mission.

Whether working in the classrooms, the lunchroom, the office, sweeping the floor, or having the spiritual sensitivity to notice a student needs someone to talk to wherever they are and meet them there, we are unified to build an environment where children can learn, grow, and walk with Jesus.



"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Elementary enthusiastically welcomes

both Dustin AND Jennifer Winchester, bringing NEW personalized learning programs to us all the way from Carolina!

"We are excited to be a part of Cornerstone together as a family on a daily basis. Jennifer and I look forward to being able to help educate children with excellence in an environment where the Word of God is central in all that we do. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things; therefore, any wisdom or knowledge to be gained begins and ends with Him. We count it a great blessing to be able to come alongside parents in the mission to intentionally share and show the gospel of Jesus to children, and to see them, by God's grace, grow in relationship with Him.

As a family we love to eat, travel, and spend time with friends and family. In our free time, Dustin enjoys music, working out and staying active, and Jennifer loves to cook, sing, read and watch movies. We also love being a part of our church and serving there in various ways."





Andelyn Birch is excited to be a new

member of the Cornerstone elementary team and can't wait to meet her new students!

"I have been a Registered Nurse for 18 years; however, for the last 6 years I have been working in various roles at a public elementary school. I have always been passionate about Christian discipleship education for my own children, and I am thankful I now have the opportunity to be an active part of it as a new teacher at Cornerstone. I believe Christian discipleship education is one of the greatest foundations our children can be given, in order to stand strong and stay strong in Christ."

Andelyn has been married to her husband, Matthew, for 17 years and they have 5 children.

"I also help serve along side my husband as he Pastors at a C&MA church. I love to sing and play guitar and might even incorporate that into some "fun lessons at school"...but above all, I want to glorify the Lord in all I do and say."

"I can not express how excited I am to start this new school year and to be part of what God is doing at Cornerstone."

Nathan Brooks grew up in Harrisburg

and now lives in West Mifflin with his wife Autumn and three kids. After moving to Pittsburgh, he began teaching physical training and Martial Arts. He also has a passion for homeschooling (which he did for years), God's Word, and the outdoors!

"I love the Cornerstone model of discipleship and authentic education teaching. I am excited and encouraged to be joining the teaching staff and culture that is Cornerstone. I am especially excited about developing lasting relationships with students, parents and staff through Christian education and discipleship."

During his high school years, Nathan spent half days at the Harrisburg Arts Magnet School and developed his love and skills for art.

Nathan will be teaching art, health/physical education this year.



"Teaching is a true gift that has always impassioned and intrigued me!" -Mr. Brooks

"...but above all, I want to glorify the Lord in all I do and say." -Mrs. Birch



Steve Vinay was a name we so frequently heard shared among the Cornerstone community, it seemed fitting that the Lord would make it official and bring Steve to teach upper level math/science as well as to be our soccer team's head coach!

Steve has a couple degrees in Chemical Engineering and has been working at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory for more than two decades in the areas of thermal-hydraulics, acoustics, instrumentation & control, quality assurance, and spent nuclear fuel remediation. Steve is anxious to bring his real-world experience to the classroom during the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, and is also excited to impress upon Cornerstone students the wisdom and glory of God in the fields of mathematics and science!



Gregg Hughes joins our team to help grow our marketing and communication efforts both internally (with families) and externally (with extended family, friends, supporters, and potential future Cornerstone students/families). Gregg's professional skills in design, photography, and videography will be a blessing to enable us to create more content and communication to "turn Cornerstone inside out" to share with the world everything we do, how we do it, and why it matters.

Gregg and his wife Sue love the Lord and have served at church in many ways and we are so grateful to have their family as a beloved part of Team Cornerstone!



"But test everything; hold fast what is good."

I Thessalonians 5:21

Mike Granovitz joins Cornerstone as the Business Operations Director and will work with families on financial aid, tuition, as well as so many other missional service-oriented ventures!

"I am so very excited and filled with a myriad of emotions, primarily an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I can truly feel the Lord working in all that is going on here at Cornerstone. I am truly blessed to be part of the Cornerstone family.

I met Mrs. McCall the executive director of Cornerstone years ago when I was the managing editor of Faith Pittsburgh magazine. Cornerstone at the time was a small school with only grades 8-12. After getting to spend some time with Mrs. McCall and learning about the school I really felt strongly that if I had kids of school age this would be where I wanted them.

Fast forward more than a few years and I have two amazing daughters that I am so blessed to be able to send to Cornerstone. Now I have been afforded the opportunity to give back to the school and I am so excited and grateful that the Lord has brought me here and given me the chance to work with this awesome group of people.

I bring a varied background to Cornerstone. I have many years of experience working with young people and in various ministries including youth pastor, kids ministry, Bible teacher, jr. church teacher, elder, pulpit supply preacher, faith based crisis worker, certified suicide prevention worker, managing editor of a Christian magazine and working through chaplaincy training.

I also coach girls gymnastics for Falcon Gymnastics in Belle Vernon.

I have also worked extensively in the transportation and environmental industries filling many different roles. I am grateful that I have this opportunity to use my experiences gained over the years to help Cornerstone grow and reach more young people with the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

I am married to an amazing woman, (Dina) who is from Peru. We have been married for 13 years and have been blessed with two incredible girls (Gabby and Grace) both of whom are students at Cornerstone.

I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you personally and if there is any way that I can be of service to you or your families do not for a moment hesitate to ask."





Nicole Schier is excited to join the Cornerstone team this year alongside both of her children (her youngest joins for her first year of middle school)!

"I have taught a variety of subjects and grade levels at both public and Christian schools, and I am ready to bring my passion and enthusiasm for math and science to the middle school. I love teaching because I enjoy watching concepts click. Outside of regular classes, I have been teaching English online to children who live in China for the past 4 years."

When she isn't at school, she's likely at church (+ activities), spending time with family, planning trips, researching her ancestry, or shopping at Marshalls!



Working here is for teachers who are brave!
Sound like you?

email: careers@cornerstoneprep.net



FOR THE BRAVE...

**On Cornerstone Teachers and Parents
by Principal Brandon McCall**

The battle raged on and a critical battery position

on the top of a hill was the only thing keeping the French army alive and in the fight. The only problem was, the enemy knew it. All guns trained on this single location, making it the most dangerous place on the field, where survival was unlikely for more than a few moments.

Fear ruled, men fled, and all hope appeared lost.

A young leader named Napoleon Bonaparte grasped the position's importance for the battle and in the larger context of the war. He quickly took action, crafted a sign, and ran to the hot spot on the hilltop and planted it.

Moments after, men stopped running away. Shockingly, groups of soldiers would point and run to the battery that was the focus of the enemy barrage. They manned the cannons until they were replaced by new troops, now rushing in to keep the fight, their friends, and hope alive.

What did Napoleon write on the sign that changed the fate of the battle, the war, and France forever?

"This position is for soldiers who are brave."

In the Bible, we see nearly countless examples with a similar message. Where bravery, courage, and forsaking the world for a commitment to following Jesus and his example are the rule of the day. We are promised that it will be difficult but He'll be with us and it will matter!

When I see these examples, whether in the Bible or in any of the stories from world history, I think of one group of people consistently: Cornerstone teachers and parents.

It's hard doing this work. It's not always popular and demands sacrifice that is difficult to measure. It's easier to take the easy road and avoid the scoffing and danger. But the importance of this position in the spiritual battle that rages on around us can not be overstated!

So, "be strong and courageous!"
This position is for the brave.
It's for you. For us. Together... For His victory!





COLLEGE COURSES AND DUAL ENROLLMENT

Better than AP, it's Everyone's Cup of Tea!

Dual enrollment allows students to take courses at Cornerstone taught by our qualified Masters' degreed teachers to receive real, transferable college credits!

We also have partnerships with schools like Grove City College, Liberty University, God's Bible School and College, and Community College of Allegheny County, where our students can take their college courses online. Cornerstone builds in daily time for students to take these classes while still being part of our school culture.

These programs are great additions to our team of 27+ experienced teachers, committed to Cornerstone's vision for serving students through academic excellence, for whatever God calls them to for life after high school.



By the Numbers

(Through 4 years of dual enrollment)

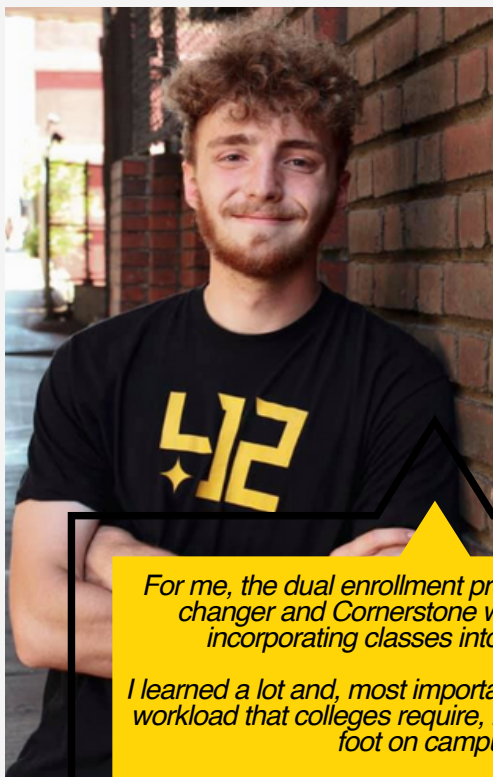
62: Number of students enrolled

414: Total credits earned

\$120: Average cost of credit per
Cornerstone student

\$795: Average cost of credit at
4-year college/university

\$279,450: Total Cornerstone
student savings
(That's \$4000 per student!)



For me, the dual enrollment program was a game-changer and Cornerstone was super flexible incorporating classes into my schedule.

I learned a lot and, most importantly, I understood the workload that colleges require, before even stepping foot on campus.

Thanks to the program, I will be graduating an entire year early from Grove City College and will be saving a ton of money! - Bishop W.



**For dual enrollment or online inquiries, email
racheldownie@cornerstoneprep.net**



CELEBRATING CORNERSTONE ALUMNI VICTORIES AT GROVE CITY COLLEGE!



15 years ago, Cornerstone Prep was founded in the dorm rooms at Grove City College. Mr. McCall loved his experience there so much that he wanted students to have an opportunity to be a part of something similar in grade school. The vision was pretty simple: Create a school where kids can study the Bible, get the authentic academic training to be fully prepared to thrive at amazing schools like Grove City College or the real world, and make it accessible for every kid via financial aid, no matter what. And the Lord has been faithful!

This year, 4 Cornerstone alumni graduated from Grove City College: Ashley and Abe were Biology/Pre-Med majors, Sadie was Mechanical Engineering, and Jeff was Marketing.

We are exceptionally proud of ALL of our alumni, as they pursue God's calling and bring Him glory!



Above: Cornerstone Alum Ashley, Sadie, Abe, and Jeff
Grove City College Class of '22

Below: Jeff's start-up company "AquaHawk Technologies" (pictured with President Paul McNulty) won the Wolverine Venture Battle and was awarded real venture capital investment



Left: Sadie was awarded a coveted GCC Trustee Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering

Right: Brandon McCall and Roger Mackey at an ACSI education conference in 2019



A True Story

Feeling a bit discouraged and unsure about what God may have been calling him to, Mr. McCall visited his education professor Dr. Roger Mackey.

Dr. Mackey asked: "Do you love kids and love teaching, Brandon?"

Then one more question, "Do you believe that God has called you to this?"

"Yes."

"Then," Mackey said "what God has shown you in the light, don't doubt in the dark."

The Lord planted the idea to open a discipleship school "Cornerstone Prep" not long after that conversation!



Then: Mr. McCall and
Mrs. McCall in 2007



Now: Grove City College
Graduation 2022



STRENGTHENING CORNERSTONE



Healthy Enrollment (*most powerful*)

- We enroll and serve mission-aligned students and families, That deepens our Biblical community and grows Kingdom culture.

Prospective PK-12th grade families can "inquire" under "Admission" at cornerstoneprep.net



Service and Communication

- We share stories, photos, videos, and messages that encourage, inform, and collectively inspire us toward God's vision of Biblical discipleship at Cornerstone.

Volunteers? email contactus@cornerstoneprep.net



Fundraising

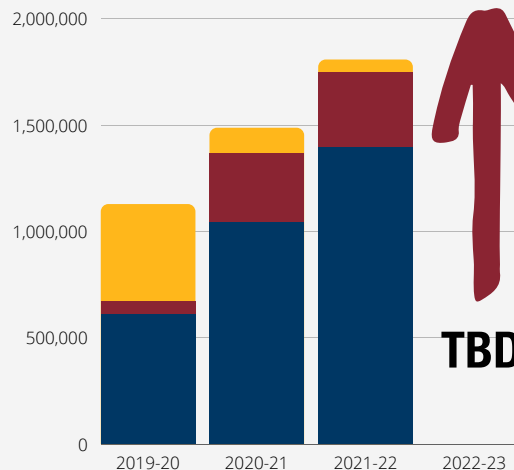
- Increased participation in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Scholarship program supports our students and makes tuition affordable for everyone.
- Build our annual fund and seed an endowment to support scholarships, programs, and our staff.



Did you know?
68% of student applicants are eligible to enroll!

A Funding Snapshot: EITC Impact

Unpacking Educational Improvement Tax Credits



Goal: Find more people to divert their personal tax dollars to Cornerstone students!
(see next page for how)

EITC Raised: Red

EITC Unfunded: Yellow *

Tuition (Historic): Blue

*Unfunded EITC means that there is student financial need that requires more EITC contributions to fill. When need is unmet, Cornerstone still grants a family aid through reduced tuition.





EITC: EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

Divert your personal PA taxes to Cornerstone

01 "Do you (or someone you know) pay PA taxes?" and "How much?"

- You are eligible if you pay at least \$1,000 in state taxes to Pennsylvania.



02 "How do I participate?"

- Fill out a simple "enrollment form." When invited to participate, sign a "joinder" and make your contribution (up to your maximum tax liability) to the scholarship organization.

03 "Then what?"

- PA processes your return and you get 90% of your contribution deposited back to you while Cornerstone retains the full amount for student scholarships!

Did you know?
EITC scholarships
financially support
>80% of our families
at Cornerstone!

+\$125M

PROGRAM EXPANDS IN PENNSYLVANIA!

This fiscal year, the state of Pennsylvania increased the total amount of EITC funding allowed in the budget by \$125M in '22-'23. That means, with your help, we can raise even more money for scholarships this year than ever before!

That's funding that goes directly to supporting student needs and can even benefit families by funding things like Cornerstone programs and other required fees.

For more info or to request a call, email
contactus@cornerstoneprep.net



NEW BRANDING, SAME BRAND

"Brand" isn't about what colors we are or what font we use. It's about who we are, what we care about, and what we pursue as a community!

We strive to be faithful, not fancy

We pursue excellence, not perfection

We want to please God, not men

We go after what is Biblical, not popular

We seek growth, not comfort

We love hard, work hard, play hard,
build relationships, speak life, show kindness,
try, fail, lead, serve, take responsibility, and
encourage one another to keep running



Shield

Our Biblical faith is
centered in
Jesus Christ alone,
THE Cornerstone



Lowercase font

- Unique
- Fun
- Relational



cornerstone
prep



UPCOMING DATES

Back to School Night

Date : THURS 18 August 2022
Time : 7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Other Details : In-person at Cornerstone (casual attire).
All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

First Day of School (K-12)

Date : THURS 25 August 2022
Time : 8:00 am – 2:32 pm

First Day of School (PK 3/4 & 4/5)

Date : MON 29 August 2022
Time : 9:00 am – 2:15 pm

Grades 6-12 Volleyball Camp

Date : Date MON, TUES, THURS, FRI starting July 25
Time : 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Location : Sportatorium @ Cornerstone Prep

Grades 6-12 Soccer Camp

Date : MON, TUES, THURS starting AUG 8th
Time : 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Location : TBA (Breisinger Field or Cornerstone)



2022-2023 School Calendar cornerstone prep

Grades K – 12:
Full School Day 8:00am Start – 2:35pm Dismissal
Half Day 8:00am Start – 11:15am Dismissal
PK 3/4 and PK 4/5:
Monday – Friday 9:00am Start – 2:15pm Dismissal

Please check the Family Portal on
RenWeb for more information

Grading Periods End On:
10/27, 1/18, 3/24, 6/2

August '22						
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June '23						
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30						

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cornerstoneprep.net

Important Dates

Aug 18	Back to School Night - 7pm
Aug 25	First Day of School
Sep 5	No School - Labor Day
Oct 7	Grandparents Day * Early Dismissal
Oct 20	No School - Staff In-Service * Authentic Education Day (for students)
Oct 21	No School - Staff In-Service * Authentic Education Day (for students)
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 23	Early Dismissal
Nov 24-29	No School
Dec 8	Have an awesome break! Christ the King - All School Concert 6:30pm
Dec 21	Early Dismissal
Dec 22-Jan 2	No School
Jan 3	Have an awesome break! School Resumes
Jan 16	No School - MLK Day
Feb 20	No School - Presidents Day
Mar 13	No School - Staff In-Service
Apr 6	Early Dismissal
Apr 7-12	No School - Have an awesome break! Virtual Learning Days
Apr 18	Jesus is Lord! Concert - 6:30pm
May 25	PK / K Graduation
May 26	High School Graduation - 7pm
May 29	No School - Memorial Day
Jun 2	Last Day of School - Early Dismissal

Cornerstone Prep exists to equip students
through Biblical Discipleship and Authentic
Education for life and work in the real world!

Join us online!



@CornerstonePrep



@cornerstone_prep_pittsburgh



Cornerstone Prep

